(c) States taken to ensure safety of passengers are as under:—

(i) Scrutiny of maintenance and operational practices of the operator by the Safety Audit team of DGCA.

(ii) Periodic surveillance checks of maintenance facilities of various operators by DGCA.

(iii) Monitoring of Cockpit Voice Recorder and Flight Data Recorder readouts of various aircraft to ensure standard safety norms.

(iv) Monitoring of the in-flight procedures followed by flight crew by Flight Inspection Directorate of DGCA.

(v) A hundred percent safety audit of all aircraft operated by private airlines by DGCA.

(d) DGCA has taken action against personnel and management for violation of laid down rules and procedures.

Tourism Related Projects Sanctioned by Central and State Governments

490. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the tourism related projects sanctioned by the centre and the State Governments during 1995 and 1996 (till date);

(b) which of these sanctioned projects are under execution and the names of the States where these projects have been taken up;

(c) the 8th plan allocation for the development of tourism in the country and what is the actual expenditure incurred on the development of tourism stating the names of the projects on which the expenditure has been incurred; and

(d) the existing incentives to the private sector for promotion of tourism in the country and whether Government propose to review its policy to attract private sector in the tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State/Union Territory Governments for promotion of tourism under various schemes which include construction of tourist bungalows, tourist complexes, wayside amenities, tourist reception centres and yatri niwases. In addition, assistance is provided for the refurbishment and beautification of the precincts near the monuments and heritage sites and adventure tourism activities. Publicity support and assistance for promotion of fairs and festivals are provided to the State Governments.

In 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till date) the Department has supported 194 projects estimated at 3356.81 lakhs. These projects are at various stages of execution by the State Governments.

(c) The 8th plan allocation for the Department of Tourism was 440 crores and the actual expenditure incurred in the first four years by the Department, till date, is 352.15 crores.

(d) The Government of India provides various incentives and benefits to private sector such as Interest Subsidy to One, Two and Three Star Category Hotels on loans taken from financial institutions and benefits under the Income Tax Act 1964. In addition, various State Government also provide incentives to the private sector for promotion of tourism in the country.

Efforts to Boost Tourism in Assam

491. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the details of efforts if any that are being taken/initiated/contemplated to boost tourism in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): To boost tourism in Assam, the Department of Tourism on behalf of the State Government has sponsored a prepa-